

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 12, and 13 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitra et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,732,328 ("Mitra"). Further, claims 3, 7, 10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Mitra in view of Walton et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,542,488 ("Walton").

Applicants' Reply.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6 and 8 for clarity. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

Prior Art Rejections

Independent Claims 1, 6 and 8

Claims 1, 6, and 8, were rejected as being anticipated by Mitra.

Applicants' invention, according to independent claims 1 and 6, relates to a wireless network communication method and a mobile unit, respectively, that are designed for adjusting mobile unit transmitter power level in response to data extracted from beacon signals sent out by an access point. Claim 1, for example, includes the recitation that the mobile unit power is adjusted in response to "power level data included in said beacon signals." Similarly, claim 6 calls for a mobile unit processor configured to extract "power level data included in beacon signals" in response to which the mobile unit transmitter power is adjusted.

Further, Applicants' invention, according to claim 8, relates to a method for controlling interference in a wireless local area network having multiple access points and mobile units. The transmission power (i.e. transmission range) of the mobile units is adjusted in proportion to access point spacing to minimize overlap and hence interference. More particularly, the transmission power is adjusted in response to "power level data is transmitted within said beacon signals."

Applicants respectfully submit that at least these features of claims 1, 6 and 8 are not shown, taught or suggested by Mitra. Mitra is directed to a method for setting transmission power of a wireless terminal for transmitting a signal representing information of a particular information class to a base station capable of receiving signals for a plurality of information classes. (See col. 3, lines 4-8). In particular, the transmission power is set such that the corresponding received signal strength has a probability of signal outage durations over a time interval that are tolerable for the particular information class represented in the signal. (See col. 3, lines 8-12). The transmission power determination according Mitra relies on a probability measure based on a mean or average value of detected signal interference as well as a variation of such interference from the mean over a time interval. (See col. 3, lines 31-35).

Mitra, first, directs a beacon signal to a "wireless terminal 21 for which communication is to be established or maintained." (See e.g., col. 10 lines 2-4, FIG. 3, step 310 and FIG. 4 step 410, etc.). Then, Mitra uses a scheme of additional "supervisory signals" for transmitting power control information. (See e.g., FIG. 1 step 140, FIG. 2 steps 210 -230, FIG. 3 step 360 and FIG. 4 step 430. etc.)

Applicants respectfully submit that Mitra fails to describe or suggest including relevant "controlling" power level data in the beacon signal itself as is required by applicants'

claims 1, 6 and 8. The Examiner mistakenly states that Mitra's supervisory signal is part of the beacon signal. (See Office Action page 3 line 8-11 citing Mitra col. 10 lines 1-6). Mitra's supervisory signal and beacon signals are separate signals sent out at different times. (See e.g., FIG. 3 step 310 "beacon signal" and step 360 "supervisory signal" and col. 9 line 64- col. 10 line 30).

For at least this reason, independent claims 1, 6 and 8 are patentable over Mitra.

Dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13

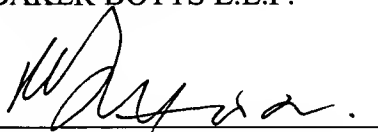
Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected either as being anticipated by Mitra or as being obvious from Mitra in view of Walton.

Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are patentable over the cited references, for at least the same reasons that their respective parent claims 1, 6, and 8 are patentable, which are discussed above.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for early resolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
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